

# Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II  
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music  
May 7, 2023

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023

*The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we experience Christ as our Good Shepherd. Jesus leads us and gives us insight of how to ignore the voices that might harm us. Those of us gathered here today are considered the sheep who follow Jesus and walk in his ways.*

*Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.*

## Gathering Music

### Welcome

*Arise in body or Spirit*

### Easter Good News

- ☐ Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- ☑ **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
- ☐ Open to me the gates of righteousness;
- ☑ **I will go through them and praise the Lord.**

### Gathering Song

*Bind Us Together*

WOV 748

### Easter Greeting

- ☐ Holy people of God, given new life through the gospel of Christ, and enlightened by the Spirit: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

### Hymn of Praise

*Now the Feast and Celebration*

ELW 167

*Refrain*

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion  
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;  
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

The image shows three staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff continues the melody for the second line of lyrics. The third staff concludes the melody for the third line of lyrics. The lyrics are: 'Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom; praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!'.

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God. *Refrain*

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. *Refrain*

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

### Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray... Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.
- Ⓑ Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## First Reading

Acts 7:55-60

*Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.*

📖 A reading from **Acts**:

<sup>55</sup>Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup>Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

📖 Word of God, word of life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16



📖 Refrain



In - to your hands, O LORD, I com - mend my spir - it.

<sup>1</sup>In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;  
deliver me | in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup>**Incline your | ear to me;  
make haste to de- | liver me.**

<sup>3</sup>Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag | and my stronghold;  
for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me.

<sup>4</sup>**Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,  
for you are my tow- | er of strength.** 📖

<sup>5</sup>Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, | God of truth.

<sup>15</sup>**My times are | in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.**

<sup>16</sup>Let your face shine up- | on your servant;  
save me in your | steadfast love.” 📖

## Second Reading

## 1 Peter 2:2-10

*Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.*

📖 A reading from **1 Peter**:

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—  
<sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup>To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,”

<sup>8</sup>and

“A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

📖 Word of God, word of life.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit.

## Gospel Acclamation

*Congregation:*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life: Al - le - lu - ia!

## Gospel Reading

John 14:1-14

*On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.*

☐ The Resurrection Gospel according to **John**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

☐ The Gospel of the Risen Christ.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

### Children's Time

All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children's sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children's message. There may be a time of dance and celebration that is offered.

### Message

Silence for reflection. After reflection,

Arise in body or in spirit to sing the hymn.

### Hymn of the Day

### Open Our Eyes, Lord

W&P 113

O - pen our eyes, Lord; we want to see

Je - sus, to reach out and touch

him, and say that we love him.

O - pen our ears, Lord, and help us to

lis - ten. O - pen our eyes,

Lord, we want to see Je - sus.

*You may sit or kneel for prayer.*

## **Prayers**

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Hear us, O God.** The assembly prays, **You give us new life.***

**A** United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

**A** God of life, strengthen your church to proclaim your gospel even in times of trouble. As we remember Stephen, we give thanks for diaconal ministry. Bless all deacons and strengthen them for their bridge-building ministry between church and world especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Christine and David, our synod companions St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Cheboygan; The 2023 Synod Assembly; Delton Community Church; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God.

**G** **You give us new life.**

**A** Creating God, you show your steadfast love through mighty waters, towering mountains, verdant fields, and arid deserts. Protect the earth's diverse habitats from the forces of pollution, erosion, extinction, and global warming. Hear us, O God.

**G** **You give us new life.**

**A** Mighty God, your Spirit guides us into all truth. Give wisdom to world and local leaders and organizations as they begin, build, or renew relationships. Strengthen leaders and aid organizations in areas needing to be rebuilt following conflict, unrest, or natural disaster. Be with those who safeguard the world, including *Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Julia Ehredt (Schreiner, Halstead), and Seth Domke (Domke).* Hear us, O God.

**G** **You give us new life.**

**A** Loving God, you make your home among us. Abide with refugees, those experiencing homelessness, those fleeing war and poverty, and all who question if there is a home in your heart. We pray for all who are sick especially *Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Sharon Bolton, Cherie Clements, Pat Wales DePew, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, The Family of Twilla Gibbons, Amanda Haddix (pregnancy), Lisa Nurenberg, Corrina Palmer, Carl Schoessel, school safety, Al Throop, Erika Wood,* and for all health care workers who care for them. Hear us, O God.

**G** **You give us new life.**

**A** Assuring God, you accompany your people amid uncertainty and change. Uphold people in this community who have recently moved, changed jobs or schools, retired, or are going through transitions of any kind. Lead us in your ways. Hear us, O God.

**G** **You give us new life.**



- A** Renewing God, you gather the saints at your heavenly banquet. We give you thanks for the care shown us by those who have gone before us.

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Grant confidence and comfort for all awaiting the place you have prepared. Hear us, O God.

**G** You give us new life.

- P** Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**G** Amen.

*Arise in body or spirit.*

**Offering Song**

*As the Grains of Wheat*

**ELW 465**

**Offering Prayer**

- A** Let us pray . . . Be known to us, O Lord, as you were made known to the disciples.

**G** Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen.

**Sharing the Peace of God**

- P** The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

**G** And also with you.

*(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)*

**Great Thanksgiving**

- P** The Lord be with you.

**G** And also with you.

- P** Lift up your hearts.

**G** We lift them to the Lord.

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**G** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**Table Prayer**

**P** It is our duty and delight, that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, through Jesus Christ who calls us to follow the way of humble service and love, and so, with the church on earth all creation and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Table Prayer

- ☐ We should always and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation.
- ☑ **By dying on the cross, Jesus has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.**
- ☐ In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
- ☑ **Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.**
- ☐ Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
- ☑ **This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.**

- Ⓟ With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the mystery of faith. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

*Congregation:*

Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come, come a - gain.

- Ⓟ Pour your Holy Spirit upon us as we share this meal in the body and blood of our Lord.
- Ⓞ **Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful people until we feast at your table in glory.**
- Ⓟ Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Amen, Come Lord Jesus; Amen, Come Lord Jesus.

*Congregation:*

A - men, Come\_ Lord Je - sus; A -  
men, Come\_ Lord Je - sus.

- Ⓟ Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains are scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. Amen, Come Holy Spirit. Amen, Come Holy Spirit.

*Congregation:*

A - men, Come Ho - ly Spir - it. A -  
men, Come Ho - ly Spir - it.

☐ All glory and honor is yours, O God, now and forever.

*Congregation:*

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the  
u-ni-ty of the Spir-it all glo-ry and hon-or is  
yours, O God, now and for-ev-er,  
A - - - men.

### Lord's Prayer

☐ Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:

☑ **Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

### Invitation to Communion

☐ Holy things for holy people.

☑ **One is holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God.**

☐ Taste and see that the Lord is good.

☑ **Thanks be to God!**

*Sit*

*Lamb of God*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world: have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us,  
mer-cy on us.

**Additional Verses:**

**You break the chains of hatred and fear:  
You are the way of justice and peace:  
You are the way of mercy and love:  
You are the bread of life for us all:  
You pour your Holy Spirit on us:**

*Final time:*



Lamb of God, you  
take a-way the sin of the world: grant us peace,  
grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion Songs

### *You are My Hiding Place*

W&P 160

You are my hid - ing place; you al - ways  
 fill my heart with songs of de - liv - er - ance. When -  
 ev - er I am a - fraid I will trust in you,  
 I will trust in you. Let the weak say,  
 "I am strong in the strength of the Lord."  
 strength of the Lord, I will trust in you."

Chords: Am, Dm<sup>7</sup>, G, G/B, C<sub>sus</sub>, C, G/B, F/A, Dm, E<sub>sus</sub>, E, Am<sup>2</sup>, Dm<sup>7</sup>, G, G/B, C, G/B, F/A, Dm, E, E, E, E, E, Am.

Performance notes: "To repeat Esus" (over the second line), "Last time Esus" (over the third line).

### *Come to the Table*

ELW 481

#### Prayer after Communion

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Living God, you have greeted us in our brokenness and nourished us with the body of Christ, broken for us.
- Ⓒ **Risen to new life with you, send us now to bear your healing love into the wounded world, in the name of our risen Savior and Lord. Amen.**

#### Mission Minutes

*Arise in body or spirit*

### **Blessing**

☞ Alleluia! Christ is risen.

☞ **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

☞ God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

☞ **Amen.**

### **Sending Song**

*We Are Marching in the Light of God*

**ELW 866**

### **Sending**

☞ Alleluia! Christ is risen.

☞ **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

☞ You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace, share the good news.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**

#### **8:00 am**

**Assisting Minister – Randy Teegardin**

**Lector – Dave Neeb**

**Cantor – Cindy Olson**

**Musician – Cindy Olson**

**Pastor – Ken Scheck II**

#### **10:45 am**

**Assisting Minister – Traci Wales**

**Lector – Jeanette Markwart**

**Cantor – Paul Kuhlman**

**Musician – Cindy Olson**

**Pastor – Ken Scheck II**

**Fellowship – Diane Neeb**

**Welcome to worship today! We hope you find what we have found - a loving Jesus who welcomes all. No matter your background or faith tradition, you will find that Grace Lutheran Church is a place that is full of love, care, and support. We are pleased that you are here among us to worship the ONE who calls each of us by name and walks among us, even though he is God.**

**Prayer Chain** Grace is activating the prayer chain. If you want to be a part of the prayer chain, or have a request for prayer, please text or call Patti Comp at 248.408.5613.

**Adult Forum** studies normally studies Proverbs in the Gathering Area today at 9:30 am. Today we have a guest speaker, David Gilman from Samaritas. Hope to see you there!

**The nursery is available during the 10:45 worship service.** Aurora Collins is the Nursery Attendant. She would love to have some little ones visit her. Please spread the word that Grace provides childcare during this worship service.

**Reminder** today is the SAC outing to see the Thornapple Players production of *Into the Woods* for those who have signed up.

***Spring Flower Sale \$6.00 each. Orders due this Wednesday, May 10, with pick-up on Saturday, May 13th.***

**Reminder** Congregational Care Committee is having a meeting tomorrow at 3:00 pm.

**Reminder** Social Activities Committee meets tomorrow at 4:30 pm.

**Reminder** Outreach Committee meets tomorrow at 5:30.



## Stewardship Information

Please use this QR  
Code to access  
online giving.



Attendance: 49	Views: 223
Weekly Giving: \$2360.00	Budget Amount: \$4,301.04
Helping Hands: \$202.00	Online Giving for April: \$3,658.00
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Needed: \$9,440.65 - Note starting need was \$25,000.00	
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Received: <u>-\$ 150.00</u>	
TOTAL Outstanding:	\$9,290.65

**Grace is now accepting online donations through a QR code.** We also continue to have online giving through our website.

**Stewardship Temple Talk** Today we welcome our third and final speaker, David Gilman from Samaritas (formerly known as Lutheran Social Services of Michigan [LSSM]). Grace has supported LSSM/Samaritas since 1988 – a good 35 years! David is the Director of Planned Giving and Major Gifts and, along with giving his Temple Talk, will be joining us during the Adult Forum time to provide additional information, since this ministry may be unfamiliar to some of our newer members (and some veteran members may want to hear the latest work Samaritas is doing).

**The Property Committee** invites you to a spring clean-up event on **Friday, May 12 beginning at 1:00 p.m.** for the brush pile and the parking lot. On **Saturday, May 13, following the flower sale,** there will be a mulching party. We need your help placing mulch in the church flower beds. Your help with either of these activities is greatly appreciated.

**Synod Assembly is** TODAY through Tuesday May 9<sup>th</sup>, please pray for our church as they make decisions that affect the direction of the church. Our voting members are Bill and Lorraine Freedlund and Pastor Ken Scheck II.

**Annual Church Picnic** You are cordially invited to the Annual Church Cookout on June 4th after second service at The Poholski home located at 6810 Highlandview Dr., Middleville. Please bring lawn chair and dish to pass. Please pray for a beautiful sunny afternoon.

**Lorie Gladyness** will receive her degree posthumously from Lutheran Southern Seminary this Wednesday, May 10. Her mother, Marilyn Curtis, will be receiving it on her behalf. Please keep the family in your prayers.

**High Speed Internet Priorities Meeting** On **SATURDAY, MAY 20 from 10:00-Noon** there will be a meeting in the Fellowship Hall regarding the needs of local residents regarding the state of high-speed internet hosted by Chris Bush.

## Are You New Here?

“You know the way to the place where I am going,” Jesus tells his followers (John 14:4), but they aren’t so sure. So he goes on, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” (John 14:6), but they’re still confused. Finally, he asks, “Have I been with you all this time . . . and you still do not know me?” (John 14:9). It’s as if he’s asking them, “Are you new here?”

They’ve had him all this time. They’ve watched him and listened to him and learned from him. But, suddenly faced with the idea that he won’t always be there in quite the same way, it’s as if they remember nothing.

Yet, Jesus isn’t one of those teachers who says, “Do as I say, not as I do.” He lived his very life here on earth as a model for us, even now. Our road map to the place where he is going is to understand his words and actions, not only as *his* way, truth, and life, but as *our own* as well. It’s as complicated as that, but it’s also that simple. “Do not let your hearts be troubled” (John 14:1), Jesus tells them. Indeed, road maps are meant to reassure us, by giving us direction and setting us on the right course.

He didn’t say it would be easy. He also didn’t tell this to any of them alone, and his words are intended for us to hear in community today as well. Living out our understandings of Jesus as the way, truth, and life is a collective act, not an individual one. We do this every time we gather in community, whether that’s a congregation, a parent-teacher organization, an extended family, or a neighborhood Buy Nothing group.

“You know the way to the place where I am going,” Jesus tells us. We might feel new here, but it turns out we’ve had the road map all along.

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